

## **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

*Immediately following the title, please insert the following paragraph:*

### **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This is the U.S. National Stage of PCT/EP2003/014991, filed December 23, 2003, which in turn claims priority to European Patent Application No. 0230199.2, filed December 24, 2002, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

*Before the first paragraph on page 1, please insert the following:*

#### **Field of the Invention**

*Before the second paragraph on page 1, please insert the following:*

#### **Background**

*Before the fourth paragraph on page 3, please insert the following:*

#### **Summary of the Invention**

*After the fourth paragraph on page 7, please insert the following:*

--Other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description, the accompanying drawings, and the appended claims.--

*Before the first paragraph on page 8, please insert the following:*

#### **Brief Description of the Drawings**

*Before the last paragraph on page 8, please insert the following:*

#### **Detailed Description of the Illustrated Embodiments**

*Please amend the first paragraph on page 12 as follows:*

--A tape monitor 112 monitors usage of the tape. In order to monitor usage of the tape in one implementation, the rear of the substrate tape may be provided with markings indicative of the amount of tape remaining. For example, alternating black/white spaces (stripes perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of the tape) could be provided where the ratio of black to white, or the absolute width of the spaces, varies from the beginning to the end of the

tape. This could be a continuous change or discrete change, in the latter case for example changing every quarter of the tape only to provide a rough indication of how much tape is left. Another possibility would be a line extending diagonally along the entire length of the tape such that at any point the distance of the line from an edge of the tape differs. In that case, the tape monitor can comprise a reader for reading these markings. A suitable reading device is described for example in our US Patent Application No. 09/284,236 (now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,380,965) and suitable markings for usage indication are described in our US Patent Application No. 09/014[[1]]059, each of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

*Please amend the third paragraph at page 12 as follows:*

--Usage of the ink ribbon in the ink ribbon cassette can be monitored in a known way, for example, as described in US 5821975, which is incorporated herein by reference.

*After the last paragraph on page 15, please insert the following paragraph:*

--The foregoing detailed description has been provided solely to illustrate the structural and functional principles of the present invention, and is not intended to be limiting. To the contrary the present invention is intended to encompass all modifications, alterations, substitutions and equivalents within the spirit and scope of the following claims.--